GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3203
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
ACTION AGAINST TRAVEL AGENCIES
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Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of travel agencies involved in sending persons to foreign countries on the basis of fake documents;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies detected during the last three years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against these agencies; and

(d) the efforts being made to check illegal activities of such agencies in future and protect the interests of people?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (d): Under the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder, only such of the agencies as are registered with the Government can make recruitment of Indian workers for overseas employment. Such recruitment is made on the basis of a specific demand letter and power of attorney from the foreign employers. However, during the last three years, complaints against 189 unauthorised agents (including travel agencies) operating in different parts of the country, were received. The complaints, inter-alia, included extortion of money in the name of providing employment in foreign countries, sending the workers to other countries on tourist visas instead o f sending them on employment visas etc. All these cases were referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation and registration of cases for violation of the provisions of the Emigration Act.

2. With a view to curbing the activities of such agencies, detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instructions right upto the level of police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agencies and registration of cases against them.